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## Notes on some birds of northeastern Brazil

by Dante Martins Teixeira, Jorge B. Nacinovic and  
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In the last 7 years we have accumulated records which extend the known distribution of a number of Brazilian birds. These observations are based on the field work performed by the Ornithological Section of Museu Nacional in the residual Atlantic Forests of Alagoas, Pernambuco and Paraíba, northeastern Brazil.

Teixeira & Gonzaga (1983 a, b, 1985) have stressed that the distribution of the avifauna of northeastern Brazilian forests is not homogeneous. It may be said to be formed of 2 groups, one in the highland forests (550 m) and the other in the coastal lowland forests. Preliminary data obtained indicate that the lowland forest avifauna is predominantly Amazonian in composition, whereas the highland forests avifauna differs considerably. The stratified distribution pattern is difficult to interpret, but it is probably related to Quaternary glacial phenomena. As mentioned by Ab'Saber (1977), the dry climate of the latter period (c. 18,000 years ago) restricted forest ranges in South America, and confined them especially to the highlands, and in northeastern Brazil this may explain the existence of a highland endemic avifauna which is more closely related to the species of Atlantic Forests south of the São Francisco River than with the avifauna of the adjacent lowland forests. This is very well marked by the discovery, in the highlands, of several bird species never previously reported north of the São Francisco River, and also by the recently described *Philydor novaesi*, *Terenura sicki* and *Myrmotherula unicolor snowi*, which seem to be vicariant with *Philydor atricapillus*, *Terenura maculata* and *Myrmotherula u. unicolor* from southeastern Brazil. Additionally, the penetration through the lowlands of the Amazonian species could be regarded as a more recent phenomenon of forest expansion (c. 8000 years ago), which connected coastal northeastern Brazil with the lower Amazonian drainage.

Specimens in the Museu Nacional ornithological collections are referred to by the initials MN plus the respective catalogue number. Additionally, we also mention specimens in small regional collections. The basic literature on northeastern Brazilian birds is: Berla (1946), Forbes (1881), Hellmayr (1929),



Lamm (1948), Meyer de Schauensee (1966, 1970), Pinto (1937, 1940, 1944, 1954, 1961, 1964 and 1978), Schneider (1938) and Sick (1984). English names and sequence of the species follow Meyer de Schauensee (1970).

STRIPE-BACKED BITTERN *Ixobrychus involucris*

Discontinuously distributed in South America. In Brazil, recorded from Rio Grande do Sul north to São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. From northeastern Brazil, the Museu Nacional houses an adult male (MN 6604) from São Bento, Maranhão (c. 02°40'S, 44°50'W) collected by Snethlage, 14 September 1923, and the Museu de Ciencias Naturais, Recife, Pernambuco, obtained an unsexed specimen (without number) from Propriá, Sergipe (c. 10°13'S, 36°50'W), collected September 1983.

LESSER YELLOW-HEADED VULTURE *Cathartes burrovianus*

Widely distributed in South America, but not hitherto recorded from northeastern Brazil. Rather common in coastal Alagoas and we observed several in the sugar-cane fields, alongside *Cathartes aura* and *Coragyps atratus*. The Museu Nacional obtained one male (MN 33774; gonads 15 x 17 mm, 860 g, 560 mm total length) and two females (MN 33775 and 33776; gonads 15 and 12 mm, 820 and 880 g, 552 and 595 mm total length) from the municipality of São Miguel dos Campos (c. 09°47'S, 36°05'W) southeastern Alagoas, collected April 1984.

SNAIL KITE *Rostrhamus sociabilis*

On 14 April 1984, we observed an adult male in flooded fields of the lower Jequiá River drainage, municipality of São Miguel dos Campos, coastal Alagoas, the first record for northeastern Brazil.

BLACK HAWK-EAGLE *Spizaetus tyrannus*

Recorded in the Atlantic Forests south of the São Francisco River, and also in the Amazonas drainage, but not hitherto from northeastern Brazil. In 1983 and 1984, it was seen several times in the highland forests of Serra Branca, municipality of Murici (c. 09°15'S, 35°50'W), Alagoas.

UNIFORM CRAKE *Amaurolimnas concolor*

Locally distributed in Brazil. Specimens are known from the Amazonas drainage and also from Bahia, Espírito Santo, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, southeastern Brazil. We obtained 2 males (MN 33781 and 33782; gonads 6 mm, 133 g, 259 and 266 mm total length) from the municipality of São Miguel dos Campos, coastal Alagoas, 24 November 1983, where it seems to be a rather common bird. We observed it several times in the flooded and thickly vegetated parts of the lowland forest remnants of Alagoas.

GREY-BREASTED CRAKE *Laterallus exilis*

An adult female (MN 24881) collected in Usina São José, municipality of Igaracu, Pernambuco (c. 07°50'S, 34°54'W), northeastern Brazil, 15 May 1945 (*apud* Berla 1946) has frequently been omitted in the South American ornithological literature. The preparation of another specimen, a male (MN 28247), is typical of A. Schneider, and it is not impossible to suppose that it was collected in Porto Quebracho, southwestern Mato Grosso (c. 21°50'S, 57°53'W) around 1940. Recently, *L. exilis* was also recorded from the valley of the Rio Ribeira, southeastern São Paulo (Willis & Oniki 1985).

PAINT-BILLED CRAKE *Neocrex erythrops*

Spottily distributed in South America. Recorded from Amazonian, central



and southeastern Brazil. The ornithological collection of Universidade Federal da Paraíba houses an unsexed specimen (No 0005) from Alagoa de Pedra, 5 km south of Esperança (c. 07° 01'S, 35° 52'W), Paraíba, collected by J. L. B. Albuquerque, 30 April 1981.

RED-SHOULDERED MACAW *Ara nobilis*

In northeastern Brazil, recorded from Maranhão and Piauí (Forshaw 1978). We saw 2 in the residual lowland forests of the municipality of Matriz do Camaragibe, northeastern Alagoas (c. 09° 09'S, 35° 37'W), 20 May 1984.

PLAIN PARAKEET *Brotogeris tirica*

Known from eastern Brazil (Bahia and southern Goiás to Rio Grande do Sul). Also occurs in northeastern Brazil in both lowland and highland forests. Rather common in Serra Branca, municipality of Murici, Alagoas, whence we obtained an adult female (MN 33804; gonads 8 mm, 63 g, 357 mm total length), 12 May 1984.

SEMICOLLARED NIGHTHAWK *Lurocalis semitorquatus*

Widely distributed in the Amazonas drainage and also in the Atlantic Forests of southeastern Brazil, from Bahia to Rio Grande do Sul. Common in both highland and lowland forests of Alagoas. The Museu Nacional obtained an adult male (MN 33814; gonads 7 mm, 82 g, 288 mm total length), from the municipality of São Miguel dos Campos, collected on 25 April 1984 and a second adult male (MN 33815; gonads 4 mm, 89 g, 230 mm total length), from Serra Branca, municipality of Murici, collected on 7 April 1984.

LESSER NIGHTHAWK *Chordeiles acutipennis*

Unrecorded for northeastern Brazil until we obtained an adult male (MN 33817; gonads 5 mm, 50 g, 210 mm total length) from the municipality of São Miguel dos Campos, Alagoas, 10 November 1983.

BAND-RUMPED SWIFT *Chaetura spinicauda*

Widely distributed in the Amazonia. The specimen obtained by Pinto (1954) in the lowland forests of São Miguel dos Campos, Alagoas, has been omitted in the South American ornithological literature, even by Pinto himself (1978). Rather common in both lowland and highland forests; we obtained an adult male (MN 33826; gonads 4 mm, 17 g, 126 mm total length) from Serra Branca, municipality of Murici, Alagoas, 5 May 1984.

COLLARED TROGON *Trogon collaris*

Widely distributed in Amazonia and also in southeastern Brazilian Atlantic Forests from Bahia to Rio de Janeiro. We obtained an adult female (MN 33852; gonads 9 mm, 53 g, 252 mm total length) from Serra Branca, Municipality of Murici, Alagoas, 11 May 1984. In northeastern Brazil, *T. collaris* seems to be rather uncommon, and it was only observed in the highland forests.

BLACK-THROATED TROGON *Trogon rufus*

Widely distributed in South America. Has been recorded in Amazonia and also in the Atlantic Forests, from Bahia to Rio Grande do Sul, but not in northeastern Brazil until we obtained an adult male (MN 33853; gonads 5 mm, 54 g, 260 mm total length) from Serra Branca, municipality of Murici, Alagoas, 19 November 1983. Like *T. collaris*, *T. rufus* seems to be rather uncommon in northeastern Brazil, and was only observed in the highland forests.

SCALED ANTIBIRD *Drymophila squamata*

Known previously only from the coastal forests of southeastern Brazil, from



Bahia south to Santa Catarina. It also occurs in northeastern Brazil as an endemic species of the highland forests, where it is very common. We obtained 2 adult males (MN 32046, 32047; gonads 3 mm and 1 mm, 10.5 and 11 g, 125 and 140 mm total length) from Serra Branca, municipality of Murici, Alagoas, February 1979.

BLACK-HEADED BERRYEATER *Carpornis melanocephalus*

Only known previously from the coastal portion of southeastern Brazil, from Bahia south to Paraná (Snow 1982), but like *Drymophila squamata* also occurs in northeastern Brazil as an endemic bird of the highland forests, where it is not rare. We obtained an adult male (MN 33904; gonads 5 mm, 66 g, 230 mm total length) from Serra Branca, municipality of Murici, Alagoas, 18 November 1983.

BARE-THROATED BELLBIRD *Procnias nudicollis*

Only known previously from the Atlantic Forests south of the São Francisco River, from Bahia to Rio Grande do Sul, and also in northeastern Argentina and eastern Paraguay. It also occurs in northeastern Brazil as a common bird of the highland forests. In 1984, we obtained an adult male (MN 33906; gonads 3 mm, 163 g, 290 mm total length), an adult female (MN 33907; gonads 12 mm, 158 g, 290 mm total length) and an immature female (MN 33908; gonads 5 mm, 122 g, 265 mm total length) from Serra Branca, municipality of Murici, Alagoas. Another species of the genus, *P. averano*, was also observed in the northeastern Brazilian forests, but is restricted to lowlands, while *P. nudicollis* seems to be an endemic bird of the highland forests. The same pattern of distribution was observed for *P. averano* and *P. alba* in Venezuela, as recorded by Snow (1982).

FOREST ELAENIA *Myiopagis gaimardii*

Widely distributed in Amazonia and central Brazil. On 20 April 1984 we obtained an adult female (MN 33930; gonads 10 mm, 11.5 g, 125 mm total length) from the residual forests of Fazenda do Prata, municipality of São Miguel dos Campos, Alagoas.

WHITE-LORED TYRANNULET *Ornithion inerme*

Recorded from Amazonia and possibly Bahia, southeastern Brazil. We obtained an adult male (MN 33932; gonads 1 mm, 5 g, 91 mm total length), and an adult female (MN 33931; gonads 2 mm, 5.5 g, 91 mm total length), from Fazenda do Prata, municipality of São Miguel dos Campos, Alagoas, 1 November 1983.

SHARPBILL *Oxyruncus cristatus*

Discontinuously distributed. In Brazil, has been recorded in the Amazonas drainage, and also in Atlantic Forests south of the São Francisco River, from Espírito Santo south to Santa Catarina. Also occurs in northeastern Brazil, apparently as an endemic species of highland forests. Rather common in Serra Branca, municipality of Murici, Alagoas, where it was observed in 1984.

CHESTNUT-BELLIED EUPHONIA *Euphonia pectoralis*

Only recorded previously from eastern Brazil (Goiás and Minas Gerais) south to Rio Grande do Sul, eastern Paraguay and Misiones, Argentina. It also occurs in northeastern Brazil as an endemic species of highland forests, and is not rare. We obtained an adult male (MN 33964; gonads 3 mm, 14.5 g, 120 mm total length), and an adult female (MN 33963; gonads 6 mm, 13.5 g, 117 mm total length) from Serra Branca, municipality of Murici, Alagoas, November 1983.



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## Notes on Brazilian seabirds, 2

*by Dante Martins Teixeira, David Oren and Robin C. Best*

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Little is known about seabirds in Brazilian waters. This report follows Teixeira *et al.* (1985) and records specimens in the Museu Nacional (Rio de Janeiro) (MNRJ), the Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi (Belém) (MPEG) and 2 small regional collections which extend the known distribution of several species. Specimens are referred to by the name of each institution plus the respective catalogue number, if existent. English names and the sequence follow Meyer de Schauensee (1970).





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